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PROGRAM The Today Show

STATION WRC TV
NBC Network

DATE December 31, 1975 7:00 AM

CITY Washington, D. C.

SUBJECT An Interview with Mike Ackerman

BARBARA WALTERS: Funeral services will be held this week for Richard Welch, the CIA officer who was murdered by terrorists in Athens. His death has renewed the controversy about CIA activities abroad and the investigation of the CIA in Washington.

Mike Ackerman once worked for the CIA. He knew Richard Welch well. And he can view the controversy from perspectives shared by few people on the outside. Mr. Ackerman is in our Washington News Center now with NBC News correspondent Ford Rowan.

Good morning, gentlemen.

MIKE ACKERMAN: Good morning, Barbara.

FORD ROWAN: Good morning, Barbara.

Mr. Ackerman, I would like to ask you, to begin with, you and others inside the CIA have criticized the divulgence of CIA identities overseas by such periodicals as Counter-Spy magazine that revealed Mr. Welch's name among about a hundred others.

Do you really think that the disclosure of these names endangers the agents?

ACKERMAN: Oh, absolutely. These names have been disclosed in concert with a call on the part of Philip Agee and others to neutralize CIA operatives. And in the present terrorism-filled world and a world which has also been exposed to an anti-CIA hysteria, I think that they have to be charged